ANCIENT SKIES

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MESSENGERS OF THE GODS

BY WALTER JOERG LANGBEIN*

Dr. Walter A. Frank of the University of Bonn, West Germany, writes: "Did the Gods come from the stars? This question is, without doubt, not new anymore, because Erich von Daniken has put this question forth very persistently and has chosen as his life's task to answer it positively."

Dr. Frank understands ancient Egyptian texts and has interpreted the "Texts of the Memphis Stone" as follows: human-like,God-characters arrived on Earth from outer space many thousands of years ago; the cosmic home-country of these "Gods" was a planet of the constellation Orion, more precisely, from the planet "Iaru" in a solar-system called "Dat"; these "Gods" were physical beings who came from the stars to bring knowledge and wisdom from outer space.

Professor Dr. Hermann Oberth,generally considered to be the "Father of Modern Rocketry" and a teacher of Dr. Wernher von Braun, predicted space flight at a time when no one believed that it would be possible for man to escape the gravitational field of the Earth in a vehicle. When Dr. Oberth wrote his predictions, world scientists scoffed at him, but he has had the last laugh.

I had the honor of having several private talks with Dr. Oberth in his home at Feucht, near Neurnberg, Germany and he told me that he is convinced that there are many other intelligences in the universe and that they probably have visited Earth in ancient times. When I asked what he thought about the scientists who ridicule the ancient astronaut theory, Dr. Oberth said: "Most conservative scientists are against everything that is new, just as they were against my plans to build rockets that could take man to the Moon. Scientists who considered themselves to be very modern-thinking people announced that man might reach the Moon, but not before many, many thousands of years."

*This article is based upon Mr. Langbein's presentation at the 16th Anniversary World Conference of the Ancient Astronaut Society held in Chicago in August, 1989. Mr. Langbein was educated in ancient Greek, Hebrew and Latin and studied theology in Erlangen, Germany. He now is a professional journalist with more than 1,000 articles to his credit and one book on astronaut-gods. An active researcher in the ancient astronaut field for 15 years, Mr. Langbein has presented lectures at several world conferences of the Ancient Astronaut Society and at all its meetings in Europe. His address is OT. Niese, Auf dem Felde 11, D-4927 Lugde, West Germany.

This article is dedicated to the memory of Prof. Dr. Hermann Oberth, the Father of Modern Rocketry, who died in December, 1989 at the age of 95.

I asked Prof. Oberth what he thought about Erich von Daniken's theories and he answered that he considered many of them to be very convincing. Decades ago Prof. Oberth described the spaceships of tomorrow:"they will be shaped like enormously big wheels rotating around their own axes! Thus artificial gravity is created."

Memories of the future! The German title of Erich von Daniken's first best-seller, Chariots of the Gods? is Erinnerungen an die Zukunft, which literally translated means "memories of the future."

Ancient texts, written thousands of years ago, describe spaceships shaped like giant wheels. Such vehicles are described in the literature of both prehistoric India and ancient Israel.

Professor Dr. Dileep Kumar Kanjilal, a world-renowned Sanskrit scholar, has spent many years researching the ancient Indian epics, and he has concluded that many parts of the epic Mahabharata describe huge space-cities, which rotate on their own axes.One of these enormous space ships is described as being inhabited by 8,000 people.The "Gods" Indra, Yama, Varuna, Kuvera and Brahma each possessed such a space craft, which were always in space circling the Earth. (See Dr. Kanjilal's book Vimana in Ancient India, published by Sanskrit Pustak Bhandar, Calcutta and see Ancient Skies 7:3 and 12:6.)

At a meeting of space experts held in Bangalore, India in 1988, Dr. Roberto Pinotti of Italy addressed the meeting. He said that the reports of flying vimanas,written in ancient India thousands of years ago,give evidence of contact with extraterrestrials thousands of years ago.He urged the scholars attending the Conference to examine the old texts with today's technological knowledge,rather than to merely dismiss all the descriptions of vimanas as myth. He said, "such research could prove to be shocking for today's mankind because the existence of flying devices thousands of years ago could be explained by a forgotten superior civilization."

The Apocalypse of Abraham, a two thousand year old text which was not included in the Old Testament, probably because its material was incomprehensible to our ancestors,contains statements which are extremely interesting for today's spaceage researchers. Young Abraham is horror-struck when he heard "a great peal of thunder and fire fell from heaven." Then he was confronted by two "beings", which were definitely living beings but not human. "When I heard the voice that spoke to me," Abraham said, "I looked now here, now there, but it was not the breath of a man!" Overcome with fear, Abraham fainted and was then lifted up by one of the beings at the command of the other, saying "lift this man up for me. Let him recover from his fear!"

Abraham reports, "then the being came to me...in the likeness of a man,took me by the right hand and put me on my feet."Then Abraham is abducted."And it happened at sunset.There was smoke,like smoke from

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a furnace.Then he bore me to the limits of the fiery flames. Then we rose up, as if with many winds, into heaven which was fixed on the firmament there. In the air of that height we ascended and I saw a great light that I cannot describe, and in the light a mighty fire and in it a host of mighty figures, who called out words I did not know." Abraham is taken inside the spacecraft, which is circling around its own axis, thus creating its own gravity. Abraham describes his feeling: "I wanted to fall downwards to Earth. The lofty place on which we stood, now it stood upright, now turned itself downwards."

In the same vein is the equally old Hiram Text of ancient Israel. "As Hiram was thus floating above the Earth, in his vain imagination deeming himself superior to the rest of men, he suddenly perceived the prophet Ezekiel next to him. Frightened and amazed, Hiram asked the prophet how he had risen to such heights. Ezekiel answered,"The Gods brought me here and bade me ask thee why thou art so proud, thou born of a woman?"

Hiram answered defiantly, "I am not born of woman, I live forever. See how many kings I have survived! Twenty-one of the Ten Tribes, and no less than fifty prophets and ten high priests have I buried."

Thus we conclude: Hiram and Ezekiel meet in space, in spaceflight! Hiram was artificially conceived. Hiram describes time-dilation, an effect of space flight which slows the aging process of the space traveller, who outlives many generations on Earth.

The Messengers of the Gods who came from the stars conveyed very precise, often astonishing knowledge to their human disciples. A fascinating example is the story of Dr. Fred Begay, a Navajo Indian who studied in New Mexico and has been working as a nuclear physicist at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. His special subject is lasertechnology. The more Dr. Begay got acquainted with this complicated subject, the more he realized that the modern knowledge of lasertechnology today was already known by his ancestors ages ago! Profound scientific studies convinced Dr. Begay that his ancestors in ancient times had contact with beings from outer space. These beings possessed lasertechnology. Warriors using light-ray weapons are described in Navajo mythology. The knowledge about lasertechnology in the Navajo tribe is very old. Dr. Begay can speak for hours about laser-fusion without using one single word of modern scientific language; Navajo language is sufficient.

Professor Dr. Oberth predicted decades ago: "In distant times giant spaceships will be built. They will be independent 'worlds'. These spaceships will traverse the universe and they will spread life."

It seems that history repeats itself. Thousands of years ago life may have been created, or at least made intelligent, on Earth. How many years will pass until we shall reach distant worlds, distant universes? Will we visit other planets, and will our visits once be remembered by their inhabitants as visits of the Gods?

BOOKS:
THE LOST REALMS, by Zecharia Sitchin, in paperback from Avon Books, New York. In this fourth book of The Earth Chronicles, the author advances the theory that the Anunnaki who came to Earth from the planet Nibiru (Marduk) some 450,000 years ago are responsible for the great civilizations of the Aztecs, the Mayas and the Incas.

EXPLORING ROCK ART, Edited by Donald L. Cyr, in oversize paperback from Stonehenge Viewpoint, 2821 De La Vina Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93105 USA.

UFO/ET CONGRESS, March 30,31 & April 1, 1990,at the Holiday Inn, Bordentown, New Jersey. For details write to 138 Redfern St., Trenton, NJ 08610 USA.

IN OUR ARTICLE "Teotihuacan - An Interpretation" in Ancient Skies 11:6, we offered the tentative suggestion that the locations of the pyramids of the Sun and the Moon and the Temple of Quetzalcoatl were related to the respective distances of Venus and Earth from the Sun. This suggestion was coupled with a consideration of the relative sizes of the concentric circles of some of the petroglyphs (rock carvings) found at the Mexican site.

In his article "The Tzolkin: An Interpretation" (Pursuit, Second Quarter 1985), and in his presentation at the Society's 16th Anniversary World Conference, Stuart Greenwood offered as a solution to the 260 day sacred calendar of the ancient Maya, the synodic period with respect to Venus of a planet, we will call "Planet X", located at 2.74 Astronomical Units (A.U.) from the Sun (the Earth is located at 1 A.U.).Such a planet would have been positioned in the heart of what today constitutes the Asteroid Belt, a multitude of small planetary bodies whose orbits lie mainly between those of Mars and Jupiter. It is noteworthy that Anthony Aveni, in his "Skywatchers of Ancient Mexico" (University of Texas Press, 1980), states in regard to the petroglyphs that "In three cases the total number of holes in the entire pattern is 260, and in a number of cases portions of the pattern add up to that important number." It appears appropriate to re-examine the significance of the Teotihuacan material in the context of the hypothesis developed by Stuart.

We may proceed by first accepting the postulate that the 260 dots in the petroglyph are related to the 260 day interval. We further propose that this in turn directs attention to Planet X. The ratio 11/16, or 0.69, of the radii of the concentric circles in the petroglyphs cannot be satisfactorily related to the ratio between the orbit of Planet X and any other significant planet, so we seek another explanation. In view of the well known (though not widely accepted) hypothesis that the Asteroid Belt was produced largely by the disintegration of Planet X, we next consider the distribution of asteroids in the belt. A diagram included by John T. Wasson in his "Meteorites"(W.H. Freeman and Co.1985) shows that the substantive body of asteroids is located between 2.2 and 3.2 A.U. from the Sun. The ratio 2.2/3.2 is exactly the same as the ratio 11/16. We therefore propose that the two-circle petroglyph constitutes a diagram outlining the substantive boundaries of the Asteroid Belt.

If this interpretation is correct it suggests that a totally new approach is required to the significance of the complex at Teotihuacan.
Rose Mary and Stuart W. Greenwood, 9607 McAlpine Road, Silver Spring, MD 20901 USA.
Ed.Note: Congratulations to Dr. and Mrs. Greenwood on their marriage in August, 1989. Part of their honeymoon was spent attending the Society's World Conference in Chicago. Stuart Greenwood is a Ph.D. in Aerospace Engineering and is a Program Manager with the University Research Foundation, an affiliate of the University of Maryland. Rose Mary has a Masters Degree in Special Education and teaches children with learning disabilities.

THE SECOND OZARK UFO CONFERENCE will be held at the Inn of the Ozarks, Eureka Springs, Arkansas on April 6,7,8, 1990. For details and reservations write to Lucius Farish, Route 1, Box 220, Plumerville, Arkansas 72127 USA, or call (501) 354-2558.

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ONE MEMBER'S EXPEDITIONS IN INDIA

BY B. S. SUJENDRA PRAKASH*

Ancient astronauts are not new to India though they might be for the present day Indians.Not without reason do we have thousands of Gods in our religions. I believe that our mythologies were true eye-witness accounts which may have later been distorted.

I do believe that the Earth received a visit from outer space in pre-historic times; that the present civilization on our planet is not the first; that the human intelligence was created in a particular image, for a particular purpose; and that our religions,mythologies and popular legends are not without facts.

While it presently is not possible for me to join our Member Expeditions to other lands, there are many places here in India which may relate to ancient astronauts and unexplained mysteries. Accordingly, I decided to set out on my own expeditions and I will share with the other members my recent experiences.

I. GIANTS IN INDIA? In Ancient Skies 14:3 there are accounts of giants in South America and South Africa as well as in Sri Lanka. Were there giants in India too?

The idea of giants is not new to Indians. Our myths, legends and ancient literature are full of giants. It would be too exhausting to bring forth all these "facts." However, I would like to share with my fellow members one of my expeditions that led me to a giant footprint, if that is what it is.

Chandragutti is a small village in Soraba Taluq with a population of only 1,421. It is 16km northwest of Soraba town in Shimoga district of Karnataka State in India.Nearer to the village is a hill at a height of 2,792.29 feet (848m), surrounded by thick forests. At the foot of the hill there is a cave temple dedicated to the goddess Renukamba.

While the Karnataka Gazetteer describes the area as having a fort with a bastion, some ruined temples,several rock-cut wells and a large stone building, it conveniently forgot to mention the giant footprint, which is embedded in the granite rock, locally called Chandragutti Stone, adjacent to a hillock. Surprisingly, the footprint is too gigantic. My measurements showed that it was approximately 21 feet (6.4m) long and six feet (1.83m) wide at the front and 3.5 feet (1.07m) at the heel. I could not measure the depth as grass had grown in plenty upon the impression. The impression of the toes was also not visible for the same reason.

This finding raises several questions. If the impression of the left foot itself is 21 feet, how tall could the giant have been. I made a simple calculation measuring my own left foot and what I found amazed me. The length of my foot is 10 inches and I am six feet tall. If we follow the same reasoning a man with a foot of 21 feet in length should measure 151.2 feet tall! Even for us it is too gigantic a step to say that a man could measure that tall. However the bible says that the giants measured 3000 cubits which is definitely over 4500 feet. Our giant in India is a dwarf compared to the biblical one.

The Ancient Skies 14:3 article describes a footprint which is 4.25 feet long, so the man must have been merely around 31 feet tall.We are around an average of 6 feet tall, let us say. Eureka, there is a connection here:

Modern man - 6 feet x 5 equals 30 feet
South African Giant - 30 feet x 5 equals 150 feet
Indian Giant - 150 feet x 5 equals 750 feet
Unknown Giant - 750 feet x 5 equals 3750 feet
Biblical Giant - 3750 feet x 5 equals ?

Was there a genetic plan to reduce man five times every time? I do not know. I am only raising a point here for the members to think about. If you give and take a few inches or feet here and there, lo and behold, you have a mathematically perfect formula. If someone can find a giant footprint which is around 104 feet long, we are heading somewhere. But that is easier said than done. Anything can happen in an area that large.

But are we justified in arriving at such a conclusion? If we look at the development of the width of these footprints the five-times ratio does not apply. The width of my own footprint is four inches; the South African giant's is reported to be 24 inches; the one I measured in Chandragutti is merely 48 inches. Now we see that there is a four times increase in one case and only a two times increase from the second to the third. These are the only footprints we have been able to measure. The unknown and the biblical giant's are hypothetical, hence we cannot deduce from them.

Why has such a significant variation occurred? One reason could be that the Indian giant's foot was long to accomodate his height. But how sure are we about his height? Just because my left foot is 10 inches long, four inches wide and my height is six feet, I can never generalize that the same ratio applies to others also and say that all people with a height of six feet would have the same measurements of their feet as mine. When there is such a significant difference in human beings, how sure are we to apply it to giants? In addition, we know little of when the giants walked on this Earth as well as the force of gravitation at that time. Thus, until we have further data we do not know.

However, the impression found at Chandragutti cannot be mistaken for anything else other than a human footprint. The giant who stepped there could have been as tall as 20 feet or as gigantic as 150 feet. But if the impression was not made by a giant then who was responsible for it?

Indians have a tendency to attribute anything gigantic to one of the mythical characters, especially to Ravana in Ramayana, or to Bhima in Mahabharata. This impression at Chandragutti is known as Bhima's footprint. Bhima was the second son of King Pandu. According to the myth he was very powerful and was responsible for killing many giants and Rakshasas, or demons. Let us assume that the people of Chandragutti under a king have carved out the footprint in memory of Bhima. As mentioned earlier, there are several rock-cut wells. I counted three. They are cut quite deep into the rock and are crude except for one which has a passage for a man to go down and collect water. When I found the wells alongwith the footprint I safely assumed that the people of those days were responsible for them.

But the wells are crude and they do not have a proper shape. Whereas the footprint is proper and specific. If they could cut an impression of a foot so perfectly, why not the wells? Why only one foot? Why not two, or more? There are many more so-called Bhima's feet throughout India but none so huge. And it is usual to find more than one. In addition, people have a tendency to carve footprints that are raised above the ground level, like placing a slipper. Why cut into the granite? And why so near to the hillock when it would have been very easy to cut it on a plane surface? What was the point in cutting it so big? Why a left foot, when in India, time and again, the right foot is considered auspicious? Why such faulty measurements?

Maybe a giant did walk on India; maybe the people just carved something out. But maybe not. The Indi-

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ans did see or knew about the existence of giants. The proof is there at Chandragutti for all to see.

II. THE KUPPAGADDE STONES.An acquaintance of mine at the Karnataka Gazetteer Office in Bangalore once told me that he had come across some stones at Kuppagadde that neither he nor his colleagues could make anything out of. Armed with such information, I set out on an expedition to Kuppagadde, a small village in Soraba Taluq situated 15km north-east of Soraba town in Shimoga district, Karnataka State, India.It has a population of 2,452.There are several temples in the village, all of which are in ruins except one.

Going to an Indian village and asking to see some stones is the height of stupidity, but I did just that. Some of the villagers said that there are stones everywhere, as if I did not know it already. Some thought that I had come to explore for any treasure which might be underneath the stones. Others felt that I was just one of those "city fellows."

I explored the village and found the stones I was looking for. They lie to the east of Kuppagadde village on the right side of a Basava (Bull) temple. It is spanned over an area of 22.7 feet (6.95m) east to west and 13.12 feet (4m) north to south.There are 12 stones altogether and can be divided into three columns standing east to west. They are not in any specific rows. The first column has five stones, the second three and the third four. They vary in size.

I measured one at 33 inches (83.82cm) high and 17.25 inches (43.82cm) wide. The smallest I measured at 15.25 inches (38.86cm) high and 10.5 inches (26.67cm) wide. Almost all the stones are facing exactly east. A few stones are broken but the same figure appears on both sides of almost all the stones, although not quite so clearly on some. They show a round spot instead of a face, a body with a lot of armour, something tied to the waist, with the right hand holding a broad blade-like thing.

I enquired of quite a number of people about the figure depicted on the stones, but no one knew what it was. Some could only guess. Perhaps some fellow Indians can throw some light on this subject. Until they can prove to me that the figures are not astronauts, that is what I will call them.

III. THE JADEMUNI STATUE. Adjacent to the district headquarters of Chikmagalur in Karnataka is a small place known as Hiremagalur. It was once a separate village but now it is part of Chikmagalur town. Among other temples this place also has a Shiva temple. Near to the entrance of the temple is a strange sculpture called Jademuni, which measures 4 feet (1.22m) in height, with eight legs and four hands. The latter aspect is not surprising as many Indian Gods have more than two hands. The strange fact is in the legs - four at the front and four at the back forming two pairs facing opposite directions. Why eight legs and why in such a position? Why only four hands? No one knows.

Other features of this figure are also strange. It has curly hair which is unkempt and a belt-like band across the left shoulder. The latter is surmised to be the sacred thread but such a wide band is never worn by anyone. It wears a loin cloth with a girdle, and there is a mark on the forehead indicating a third eye. The strangest thing is that the figure faces north, while almost all the important deities in India always face east.

All four hands of the figure are at the front. The right upper one holds a long staff, the lower one a rosary. The left upper hand is broken and the lower one holds a vase-like thing with a lid. This latter object is sometimes referred to as a money purse and hence the figure is supposed by some to be Kubera, the Wealth God. However, Kubera is always depicted with a pot-belly which is conspicuous by its absence.

The sculpture is called "Jademuni" by the local people because of its Jade (hair, or plait).It is a Muni (sage) as it is holding the rosary. However, just these two things do not make up a sculpture. We do not know if the hand holds a rosary or just some other beads. In addition, this type of matted hair is uncharacteristic of the sages of India.

In my quest to know more about the figure, I searched through the literature on Iconography. The four hands, the matted hair, the loin cloth and the third eye - all indicate that it is a form of Shiva, but then, the objects held in the hands of Jademuni, its legs and the fact that it faces north would indicate a different God. Neither the Ganas nor the minor Gods resemble the figure of Jademuni. It has some unique features that none of the others have. Though the local people think that the figure guards the area and protects them, still no one is bothered about the sculpture. They neither worship it nor talk about it. It just stands there as a mute witness to a bygone culture which depicted it. Probably the ancient ones knew about it, but now it remains a stranger and no one recognizes it.

THE ENIGMA OF SAMSON

By Dr. Franklin R. Ruehl*

Was Samson, the legendary muscleman of the Old Testament, an extraordinarily strong human or an extraterrestrial hybrid? While considerable attention has been focused on the possibility that Eve was created by means of an alien genetic engineering stratagem,the mystery enveloping Samson's birth has been virtually ignored by paleovisitologists. Yet, there abide a hextet of factors arguing for the involvement of ancient astronauts in the life of Samson:

- Samson's mother, the wife of Manoah, a Danite, was approached by an angel. Innumerable ufologists have speculated that angels were in reality ETs.
- Samson's mother had been barren, yet the angel assured her that she would bear a son. Most likely, an advanced alien in-vitro fertilization technique was performed upon her, analogous to the type of procedure that is being routinely carried out on infecund women today.
- The angel warned her not to consume wine or any other alcoholic beverage. This admonition is certainly suggestive of the type of warnings being issued today to mothers-to-be for the protection of their fetuses, indicating an advanced state of medical knowledge in biblical times that an alien being might possess.
- When the angel bade farewell to Manoah and his wife, he rose in a flame toward heaven (Judges 13:20). This description of his departure remarkably mirrors a report of a spacecraft ascending into the sky, again arguing for the idea that the angel was in actuality an ancient astronaut.
- Samson was possessed of superhuman, non-terrestrial strength, which strongly suggests that he was an alien hybrid, part-human, part-ET, created by advanced extraterrestrial biomedicine.
- Samson's renowned strength derived from his hair, not his muscles, as in ordinary mortals, thus persuasively arguing for the hypothesis of a hybrid entity.

*Dr. Ruehl is a Ph.D. in Nuclear Physics, a Ufologist, an Author, a Lecturer and a Columnist. His address is P.O.Box 847, Glendale, CA 91209 USA.

ONE DAY MEETING IN ZURICH

A one day meeting of the Ancient Astronaut Society will be held at the Hotel Nova-Park in Zurich, Switzerland on Saturday, August 25, 1990. Arrival on August 24 and departure on August 26. All lectures will be presented in the German language with no translation into English. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Ancient Astronaut Society, Baselstrasse 1, CH-4532 Feldbrunnen/SO, Switzerland for details and reservations.

FINAL CALL FOR "LA RUTA MAYA" YUCATAN ADVENTURE, March 22 to April 4, 1990. For prices and details contact the Society Headquarters immediately.